

NSC BRIEFING

17 June 1959

JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA

- I. Tentative agreement reached last week at Geneva between Japan and North Korea on repatriation of Koreans in Japan has stirred up new controversy between Japan and South Korea.
 - A. Agreement, permitting Koreans to return to North Korea if they wish, has enraged Syngman Rhee.
 - B. Rhee has already cut off all trade with Japan, and threatens to intercept ships which would carry repatriates. 25X1
 - C. Agreement still must be approved by International Red Cross. If carried out, complete break in already limited Japanese-South Korean diplomatic relations likely.

II.

- A. Leaders of Rhee's party and principal opposition party seriously concerned that Rhee may provoke Japanese, but they evidently lack courage to tell Rhee so.

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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